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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

<i>5/1 Reg for RCE 1-1404 NP CJM</i>	Application Number	08/857,273
	Filing Date	May 16, 1997
	Confirmation Number	3991
	First Named Inventor	Peter A. Ronzani
	Group Art Unit	2674
	Examiner Name	Wu, Xiao Min
	Attorney Docket Number	0717.1083-008

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. Previously submitted
 - i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on []. (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on [].
 - iii. Other -- [].
- b. Please do not enter the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on [].
- c. Enclosed
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Petition for Extension of Time - [5] month(s) with copy
 - v. Other -- [].

2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. Other -- [].

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 CFR §1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

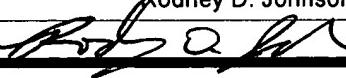
- a. A check is enclosed for the following fees in the total amount of \$2,816.00

OR

- Authorization is granted to charge the following fees in the total amount of \$[] to Deposit Account No. 08-0380. A copy of this document is enclosed for accounting purposes
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. Amendment Fee
 - iv. Other -- [].

- b. Authorization is hereby granted to charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 08-0380. A copy of this document is enclosed for accounting purposes.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Rodney D. Johnson	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	36,558
Signature		Date	January 5, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below:

Name (Print/Type)	Denise Caredeo		
Signature		Date	1/5/04